

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency
100 USDA, Suite 102
Stillwater, OK 74074-2653

OK Notice CRP-582

For: County Offices

Availability of Practice CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain

Approved by: State Executive Director



1 Overview

A Background

Notice CRP-479 announced the availability of practice 23A, as of October 1, 2004. The practice is available through the earlier of December 31, 2007 or until the 250,000 acre national allocation is reached. Oklahoma was allotted 1,500 acres for practice CP23A. Continuous signup CRP provisions are in 2-CRP, Part 11.

B Purpose

This notice provides practice CP23A:

- requirements
- required management practices and schedules
- request for acreage allocation before CRP-1 approval

2 Practice CP23A Requirements

A Vegetative Cover and Policies

Practice CP23A must be established to a mixed stand (minimum of five species) of at least three native grasses and at least one forb or legume. The wetland buffer and all possible acreage of the wetland shall be planted. Natural succession will occur in these areas that cannot be planted to grass. Natural succession will also result in those areas of the wetland that were planted but became wet. Areas reverting to natural succession after areas of the wetland that were planted to a vegetative cover and revert to natural succession are not required to be replanted. The natural succession species are desired.

The wetland plant population is allowed to return to the natural state; however, invasive plants, such as red cedar and salt cedar must be controlled. A list of invasive plants that must be controlled are listed in OK Exhibit 7, subparagraph C on page 2 of the exhibit. Desirable woody species native to the site are allowed.

Disposal Date:

12-01-05

Distribution:

County Offices

11-08-04

2 Practice CP23A Requirements (continued)

A Vegetative Cover and Policies (continued)

The CP23A buffer may not exceed a 4 to 1 buffer to wetland ratio. The buffer area must be maintained in the planted native grass, forb, and legume cover.

Counties shall utilize the components of practice CP23 in handbook 2-CRP, OK Exhibit 15 and OK Notice CRP-571. Handbook 2-CRP, OK Exhibit 15 will reflect practice CP23A in a forthcoming amendment.

B Required Management Activities

Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 239, requires all participants, with contracts beginning with signup 26, to perform management activities as a part of their approved conservation plan. The required management activities will be incorporated in the conservation plan in addition to normal establishment and maintenance requirements. The following reflects the required management for practice CP23A. This information will be incorporated in a forthcoming amendment to 2-CRP, OK Exhibit 8.

Management Activity	Timing	Frequency	Specifications
Mow or burn	February 1 – April 1	Years 6, 10, and 15 of the contract	Apply to buffer area only

C Contract Length

Producers may elect a contract length of at least 10 years and not to exceed 15 years.

D Practice Incentive

Practice CP23A does not receive a signup (SIP) or practice (PIP) incentive payment.

Practice CP23A does receive an incentive to restore the hydrology of the wetland. The incentive payment is a one-time payment equal to 25 percent of the cost of restoring the wetland hydrology. The incentive does not apply to the cost of installing the buffer.

Calculation Example:

Wetland area: 20 acres - Installation cost: \$2,000 - Incentive Payment: \$500
 Buffer area: 40 acres - Installation cost: \$4,000 - Incentive Payment: \$0

E Cost Share and Rental Rate

Participants will receive a cost share of 50 percent of the wetland restoration and buffer installation. Flat rate cost-share amounts are reflected in 2-CRP, OK Exhibit 15.

2 Practice CP23A Requirements (continued)

E Cost Share and Rental Rate (continued)

Participants will receive a rental rate based on the three predominant soils plus a \$5.00 maintenance rate.

F Land Eligibility

Producers must meet ownership requirements of 2-CRP, subparagraph 82B. Land does not have to meet EI or other requirements of 2-CRP, subparagraph 97B. Land must meet the cropping requirement of 2-CRP, subparagraph 97A and require restoration.

G Practice Standard

The practice standard 657, Wetland Restoration, will be used to develop and reference in the conservation plan.

H Twenty-Five Percent Cropland Limitation

Practice CP23A is not available for producers located in counties where the 25 percent cropland limit has been reached or exceeded (2-CRP, paragraph 69).

3 Acreage Allocation

A Allocation Request

The state has been allotted 1,500 acres for practice CP23A. BEFORE approving contracts for CP23A, a request for allocation must be made to the STO Conservation Section to ensure acres are available for the contract. The STO will respond as to whether or not allocation acreage is available to approve the contract. Allocation request approvals will be on a first come-first serve basis.

4 Publicity

A Publicizing CP23A

Practice CP23A shall be publicized by all available means on a continuous basis.

B NRCS Information

Provide NRCS a copy of this notice. Discuss this notice, practice requirements, and requirements of Notice CRP-478 with NRCS to ascertain areas of applicability in the county.

4 Publicity (continued)

C Playa Lake Joint Venture (PLJV)

The PLJV supports this practice. The PLJV has funds available to promote the practice. Contact the STO for ideas in your county to promote the practice that may require funds from the PLJV.